

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 22 (canceled).

Claim 23 (currently amended): An apparatus which may be used as a power-producing device based upon a fuel cell, said apparatus comprising:

- a) at least one fuel cell pack, wherein said fuel cell pack comprises:
 - 1) a plurality of elementary cells; and
 - 2) a fluid distribution means, wherein:
 - i) said fluid distribution means supplies each said elementary cell with two input fluids, and allows for the discharge of two output fluids from said elementary cells;
 - ii) said fluid distribution means is able to be connected to a fluid distribution system of said apparatus; and
 - iii) said fluid distribution means comprises at least one series of first valve elements, wherein said first valve elements are located on a first side of said fuel cell pack;
- b) said fluid distribution system, wherein:
 - 1) said fluid distribution system is able to supply each said fuel cell pack with said input fluids, and allows for the discharge of at least two said output fluids from each said fuel cell pack; and
 - 2) said fluid distribution system is able to be connected to at least one external circuit for the supply of said input fluids, and to at least one external circuit for the discharge of said output fluids; and

- c) at least one series of second valve elements, wherein:
- each of said first valve elements comprises a peripheral ring disposed on a moving stem that is urged by a spring against a valve seat;
 - each of said second valve elements comprises a peripheral ring disposed on a moving stem that is urged by a spring against a valve seat; and
 - each one of said first valve elements corresponds to a respective one of said second valve elements such that when they are able to substantially cooperate with said first valve elements urged against one another the stem of the said one of said first valve elements abuts the stem of said respective one of said second valve elements to urge open each of said one of said first valve elements and said respective one of said second valve elements.

Claim 24 (original): The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said fluid distribution system further comprises a support member, wherein said support member comprises:

- a) at least one fluid input member; and
- b) at least one fluid output member.

Claim 25 (original): The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said support member is a plate.

Claim 26 (original): The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said support member is made of plastic and formed by injection molding or compression molding.

Claim 27 (original): The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said support member further comprises integrated channels to allow said fluids to circulate.

Claim 28 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 24, wherein [[:]]

- a) said fluid distribution system comprises said series of second valve elements; ~~and~~
- b) ~~each said series of second valve elements is able to substantially cooperate with a corresponding said series of first valve elements.~~

Claims 29-30 (canceled)

Claim 31 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim ~~30~~ 23, wherein:

- a) each said second valve element comprises a second hollow body; and
- b) said second hollow body contains both of said ~~actuating element~~ second valve element stem and [[a]] said second valve element spring [[:]] and
- c) ~~said second valve element spring is able to move said actuating element.~~

Claim 32 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim ~~31~~ 23, wherein:

- a) each said first valve element comprises a first hollow body; and
- b) said first hollow body contains both of said ~~moving member~~ first valve element stem and [[a]] said second valve element spring
- c) ~~said spring is able to move said moving member.~~

Claim 33 (original): The apparatus of claim 32, wherein a free end of said first hollow body is able to fit into the corresponding said second hollow body.

Claim 34 (original): The apparatus of claim 33, wherein a sealing element is located between said first hollow body and said corresponding second hollow body.

Claim 35 (original): The apparatus of claim 32, wherein a free end of said second hollow body is able to fit into the corresponding said first hollow body.

Claim 36 (original): The apparatus of claim 35, wherein a sealing element is located between said second hollow body and said corresponding first hollow body.

Claim 37 (original): The apparatus of claim 23, wherein:

- a) a substantial portion of a component is made of plastic formed by injection molding or compression molding; and
- b) said component comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of:
 - 1) said first valve element; and
 - 2) said second valve element.